(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Grants to Rajasthan for Development of Roads

†2995. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided as a grant to Rajasthan during the financial years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 by his Ministry alongwith the details of the items, programmes and the special head for which the said amount was provided; and

(b) whether the State Government has given the account of expenditure to the Centre on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 the following amount has been provided to the Government of Rajasthan as grant for development of roads:—

	Central Road Fund	(Rs. in lakhs) Strategic Roads
1999-2000	138.02	20.00
2000-2001	2655.25	0.00

(b) Yes Sir.

Criteria for Developing NH

†2996. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criteria and the basis on which Government are constructing and developing National Highways;

(b) whether any uniform policy is being adopted by Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for all the States;

(c) whether Government have carried out a study regarding the deplorable condition of the National Highways in Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh and whether these National Highways exist only on the papers; and

(d) if so, the details of those found responsible for this condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI] : (a) The Central Government does not normally construct new National Highways. It takes over suitable State roads and converts these to National Highways based on the criteria laid down for the purpose as per statement annexed (*See* below). Development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken up based on the condition of the road, traffic volume, *inter-se*-priority and overall availability of resources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No such study has been carried out. However,. the entire National Highway network in the country including in Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh is generally kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The criteria for the declaration of State road into National Highway is as under:—

(i) Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country.

(ii) Roads connecting adjacent countries.

(iii) Roads connecting the National Capital with State capital and roads connecting mutually the State capitals.

(iv) Roads connecting major ports, large industrial centres or tourist centres.

(v) Roads meeting very important strategic requirements.

(vi) Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.

(vii) Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions.

(viii) National Highway grid of 100 Km. is achieved.

(ix) The road must be upto the standard laid down for State Highways—both in its technical requirements as well as the land requirements.

(x) The road and right of way must be free of any type of encroachment and should be the property of the State.

(xi) The right of way required for the National Highway (preferably 45 m, minimum 30 m) must be available for acquiring, free of encroachment and the State Government would complete acquiring formalities within six months.

NB: The declaration of National Highways is considered based on the requirements of the country as a whole and not particularly with respect to any local requirements.

Investment in Road Sector

2997. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the study conducted by the CII stating that Indian road sector requires a minimum three billion dollar investment every year;

(b) if so, Government's comments thereto; and

(c) in what manner this challenge is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir. We do not know if CII has conducted any separate study on the Road Sector.